

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



California's Marine Life Protection Act Initiative: Adaptive Management in Action!

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Previous Presentation

- An introduction to the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and marine protected areas
- Why the MLPA Initiative?
- An introduction to the MLPA Initiative, a marine protected area planning process

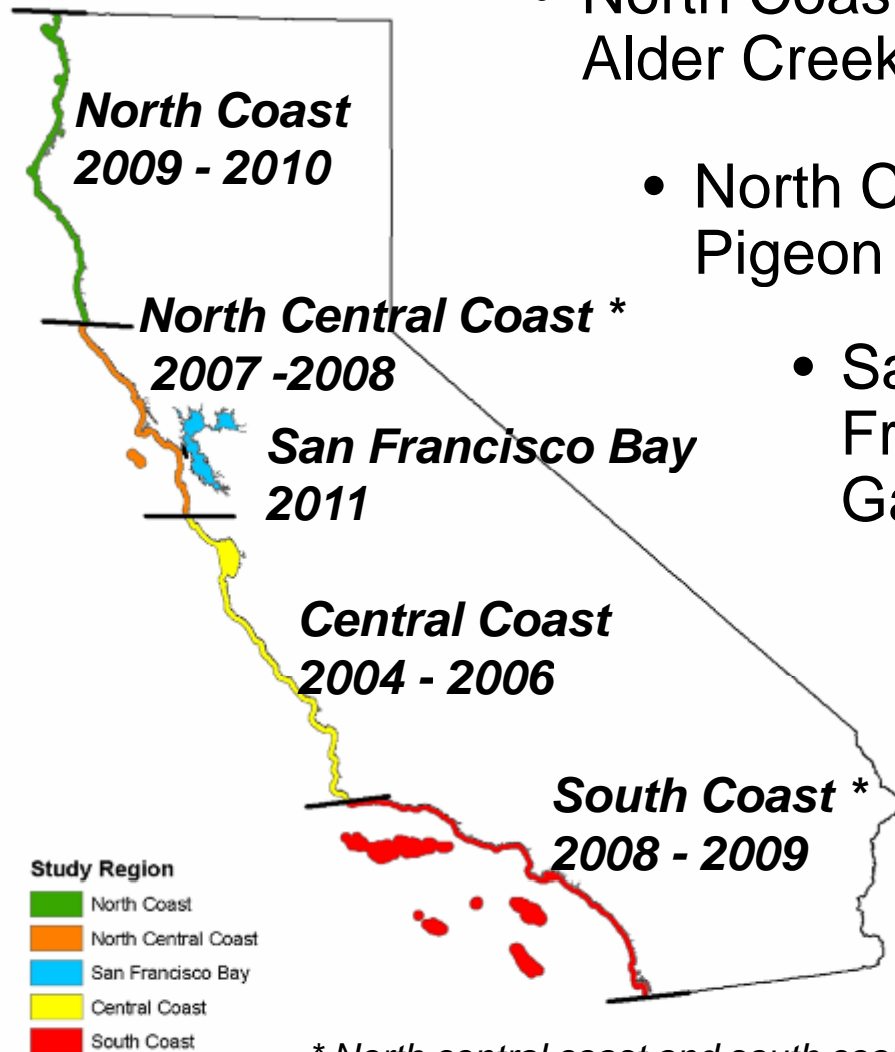


Overview

- MLPA Initiative planning groups
- Marine protected area (MPA) design process
- Adaptations to the planning process
- Results and status of study regions



MLPA Initiative Study Region Planning



- North Coast = California/Oregon border to Alder Creek near Point Arena

- North Central Coast = Alder Creek to Pigeon Point

- San Francisco Bay = San Francisco Bay from the Golden Gate Bridge to Carquinez Bridge

- Central Coast = Pigeon Point to Point Conception

- South Coast = Point Conception to the California/Mexico border

* North central coast and south coast include offshore islands



MLPA Initiative Participants

- Institutional partners



RLFF

- MLPAl planning groups
 - Blue ribbon task force
 - Science advisory team
 - Regional stakeholder group
 - Statewide interests group
 - Staff and contractors
- General public and interested parties

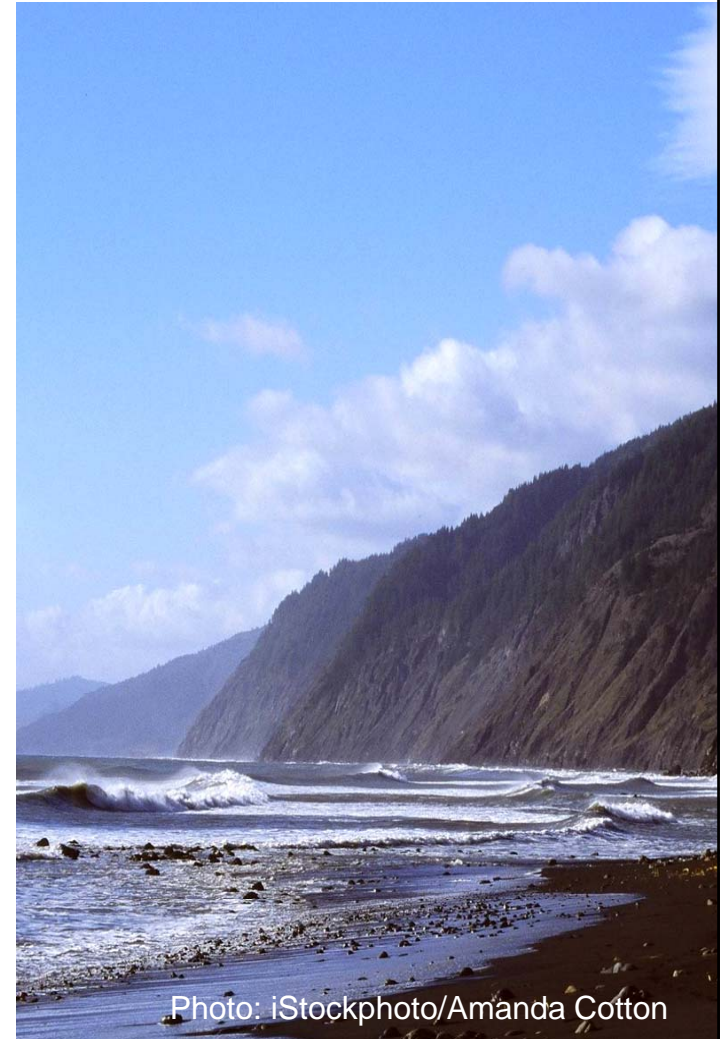


Photo: iStockphoto/Amanda Cotton



Roles of Planning Groups

What roles did different groups play in the planning process and how did their functions overlap or inform one another?

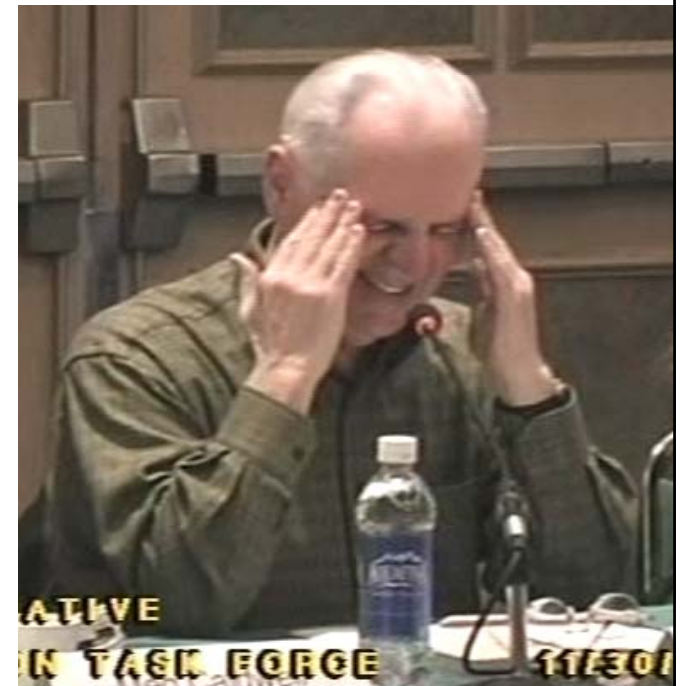
- Blue ribbon task force
- Science advisory team
- Regional stakeholder group
- Statewide interests group
- Staff and contractors





Roles of Blue Ribbon Task Force

- Meet the objectives of the MOU
- Oversee development of master plan framework
- Oversee regional projects to develop alternative MPA proposals
- Strategy for long-term funding
- Recommendations for improving state-federal coordination of MPAs
- Help resolve policy disputes, provide direction in light of uncertainty (“Flack Catchers”)
- Direct private funding





Why a Blue Ribbon Task Force?

- MLPA offers six goals without any priority
- Stakeholders differ in emphasis they give goals, interpret goals, place MPAs to achieve goals, and assessing possible future impacts
- MLPA goals do not give priority to socioeconomic, yet cannot ignore impacts to humans
- Science provides informative and important metrics; lacks application of values
- Differing short- and long-term impacts
- Different guidelines sometimes conflict
- In general, policy judgment required



Other Types of Recommendations

BRTF has made other recommendations to the State of California. For example:

- Water quality
- Military use areas
- Long-term funding
- Co-management of MPAs with “sister agencies,” including tribes and tribal communities



Photo: Gretchen Hofmann



Roles of Science Advisory Team

- Apply science guidance from the master plan
- Assemble and review relevant science and data
- Determine levels of protection achieved by allowing take of particular species with specific gear types
- Answer science questions
- Develop white papers
- Evaluate potential impacts of MPA proposals





Roles of Regional Stakeholder Group

- Contribute local expertise and knowledge
- Work collaboratively
- Develop MPA proposals that meet the requirements of the MLPA
- Conduct outreach to constituent groups
- Identify potential speakers



- Strive for high degree of cross-interest involvement and support



Sample Stakeholder Group Members

- Commercial fishing
- Sea vegetable harvesting
- Bird watching
- Surfing
- Seafood processing
- Conservation
- Kayaking
- Recreational fishing

- Water quality
- Research
- Diving
- Tribes/tribal communities
- Ports and harbors
- Coastal consulting
- Education and outreach
- California Coastal Commission
- National Park Service
- Public-at-large





Roles of Statewide Interests Group

- Advisory group to BRTF chair and I-Team
- How to improve progress in planning
- Ways to increase public/stakeholder participation
- Feedback on effectiveness of outreach efforts
- Potential panel speakers





Roles of Staff/Contractors in Planning

- California Department of Fish and Game (technical advice, feasibility criteria and evaluation, research)
- California State Parks (guidelines, evaluation)
- Contractors (discrete research, writing and technical tasks to support planning groups)
- Overall support to the initiative planning groups





Roles of Other Organizations

- California Fish and Game Commission
- California State Park and Recreation Commission
- California Natural Resources Agency
- Resources Legacy Fund Foundation





Types of Marine Protected Areas

- **State marine conservation area (SMCA)**
 - Allows some recreational and/or commercial extractive activities
- **State marine park (SMP)**
 - Allows some recreational activities and prohibits all commercial extractive activities
- **State marine reserve (SMR)**
 - Prohibits all extractive activities





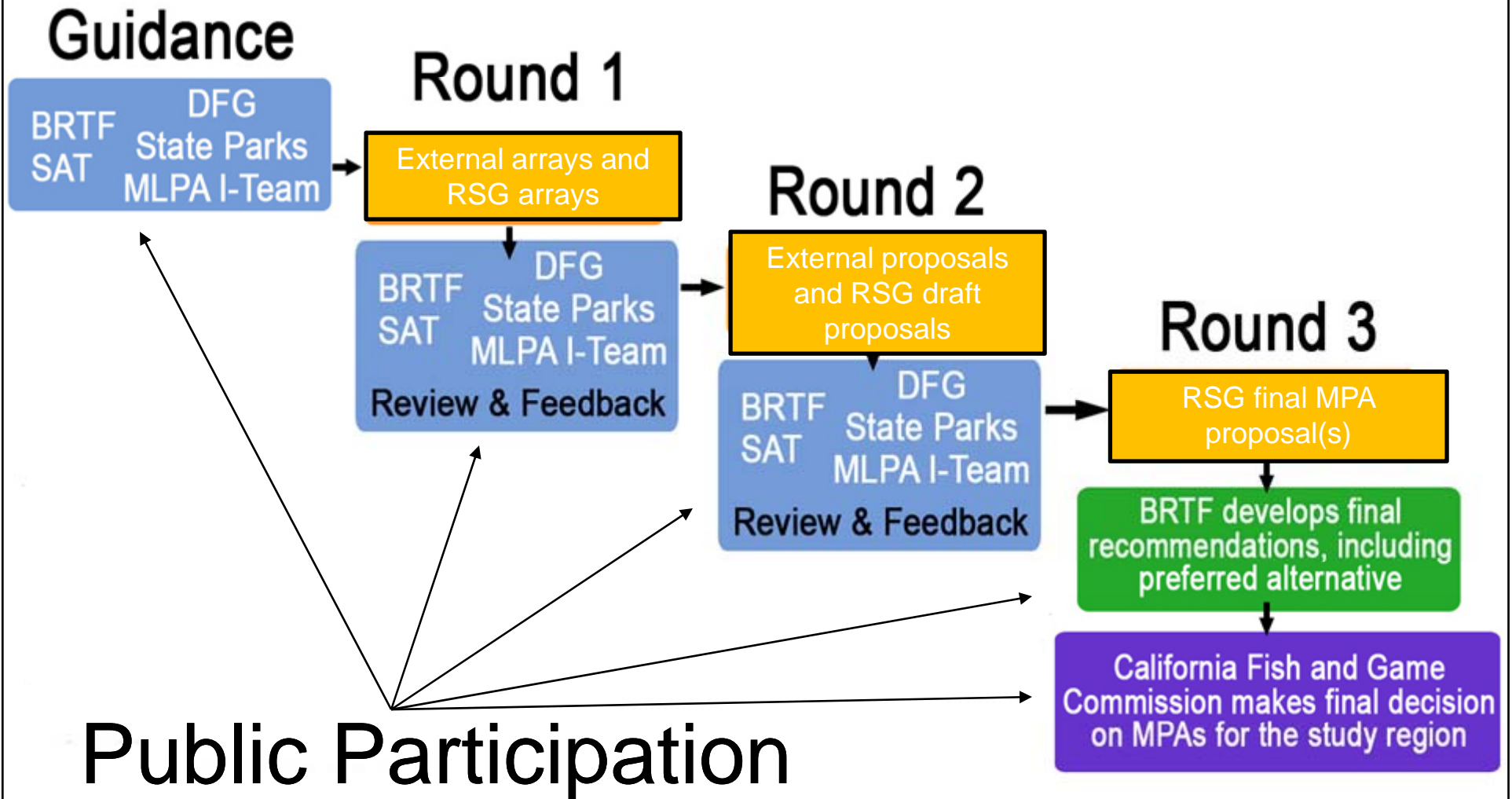
Iterative MPA Planning Process

- Three rounds of MPA planning
- Gather information, test ideas, learn from evaluations and other feedback/input from:
 - MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT)
 - MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF)
 - California Department of Fish and Game (DFG)
 - California Department of Parks and Recreation (California State Parks)
 - MLPA Initiative staff (I-Team)
 - Interested public





Planning Process





Public Outreach

- Outreach efforts included: Website, listserv, print mailing list, live webcasts, archived meeting video/audio, open houses, workshops, training videos, electronic newsletter, Twitter, Facebook, telephone office hours, individual and small group discussions, potlucks, social hours
- Targeted outreach to tribes and tribal communities



Joe Heath



Public Participation

- Opportunities for public participation included:
 - develop an MPA array
 - communicate directly with RSG member
 - submit ideas or suggestions in writing or during public comment at meetings
 - provide feedback on documents and MPA proposals
 - educate other members of the community
 - participate in field trips and workshops
 - attend “remote” public participation locations





Lessons Learned

- Clear mandate: Address inevitable uncertainty by focusing on mandate
- Transparency and accuracy critical to elicit trust in process
- Focus on necessary policy decisions; structure science and stakeholder processes to that end
- Provide authority to participate and decisions will be forthcoming
- Private funds support critical professional staff, consultants, food and comfort
- Deadlines support action





Additional Lessons Learned

- Communicate, communicate, and then communicate more!
- Commitment from participants includes risks
- Hard work by volunteer bodies critical; tens of thousands of hours of effort in each study region
- Significant resources used to support “process” rather than new data collection or analyses
- Flexibility important as learn and grow; also creates greater uncertainty and challenge for participants





Factors Supporting Adaptation

- Flexible and dynamic public-private partnership
- Iterative, regionally-focused planning process
- Commitment to lessons learned analyses
- Retention of key staff and institutional knowledge
- Acceptance of “adaptive management in action” culture among I-Team members





Adaptations: Stakeholder Selection

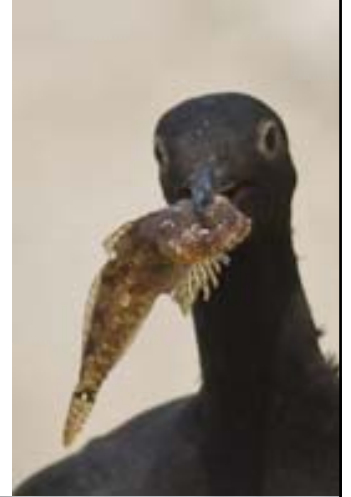
- Central coast: Nominations
- North central coast: Nominations and facilitators interviewed many stakeholders
- South coast: Nominations, facilitators interviewed most stakeholders, placed emphasis on middle-ground interests
- North coast: Same as south coast, but used development of external arrays through community groups in first round to help facilitators identify stakeholders with collaboration skills





Adaptations: Special Closures

- Special closures not MPAs..separate classification under authority of California Fish and Game Commission
- Focus on marine mammal and marine bird protection
- Generally 300 to 1,000 foot no-entry zones around rocks; some seasonal
- North coast, RSG intent to allow traditional, non-commercial, tribal gathering when possible





Adaptations: Science Guidance

- Central coast pilot project: Developed guidelines from best readily available science
- Master plan guidelines well supported by peer-reviewed scientific literature
- Application of science guidelines adapted for each study region due to unique attributes
- Examples: Levels of protection, modeling population sustainability, water quality, modeling to assess spacing and connectivity for islands in S. California Bight

	Level of Protection	MPA Types	Activities Associated with this Protection Level
	Very high	SMR	No take
	High	SMCA SMP	Salmon and other pelagic finfish ¹ (H&L or troll in waters >50m depth); pelagic finfish ¹ except salmon (spearfishing); coastal pelagic finfish ² (H&L, round-haul net, dip net, <u>cast net</u> , <u>hand</u>); Pacific lamprey (H&L, hand, spear, bow and arrow, dip net); eulachon (dip net); non-living shells (hand)
	Mod-high	SMCA SMP	Dungeness crab (trap, hoop-net, diving, <u>hand</u>); salmon and other pelagic finfish ¹ (troll in water <50m depth); surf and night smelts (dip-net, a-frame net, cast net); sharks, skates, and rays (spear, harpoon, bow and arrow in non-estuarine waters); trout except steelhead rainbow trout (H&L);



- [illegible]

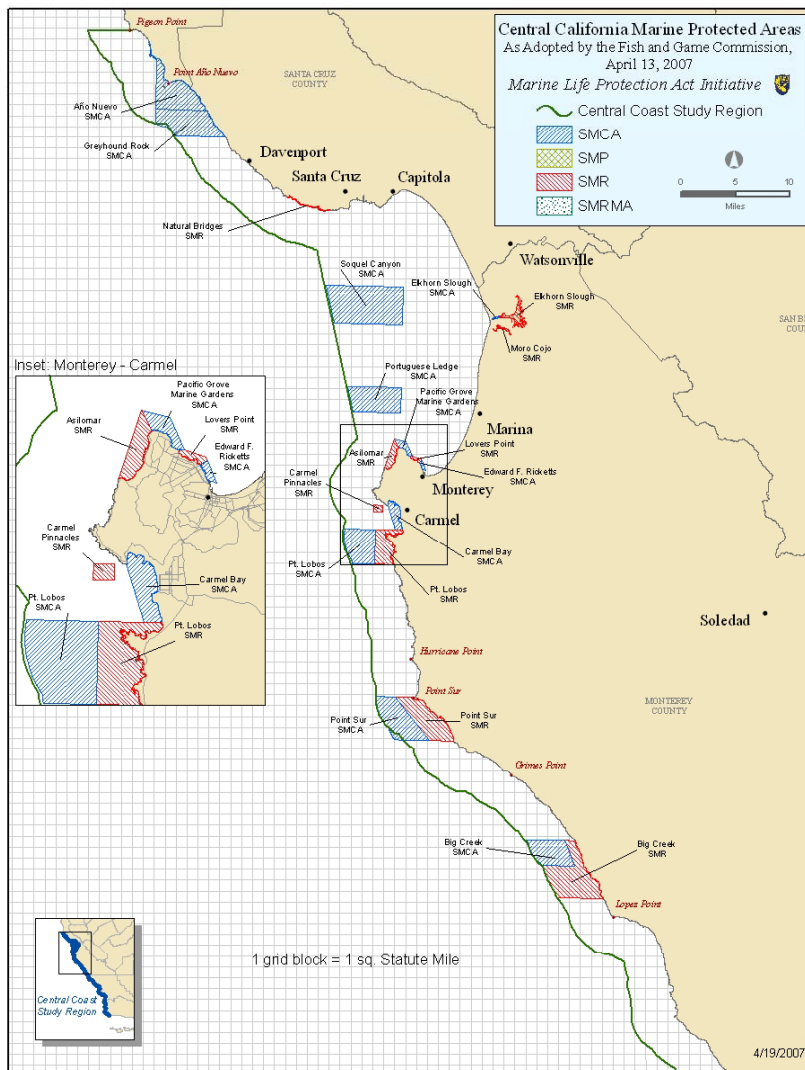


Adaptations: State Agency Roles

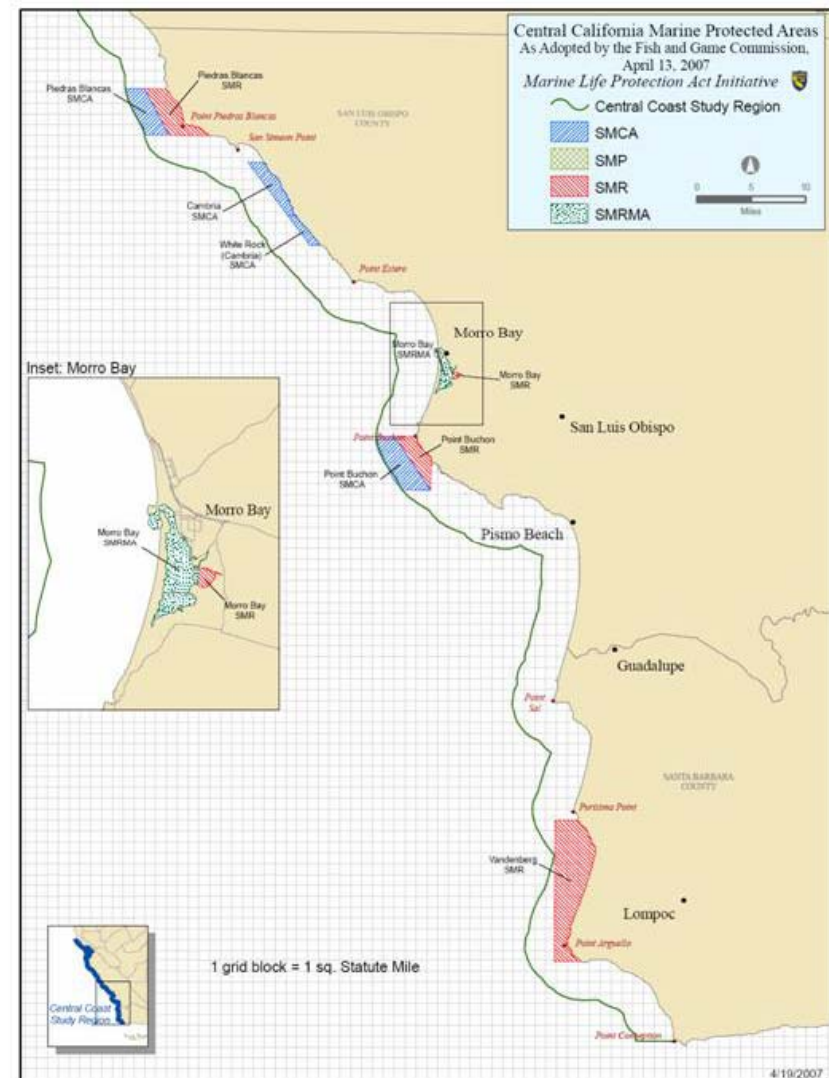
- Central coast: DFG included on staff, developed separate MPA proposal after planning process
- North central coast: DFG role increased through feasibility criteria and evaluation, without separate MPA proposal after planning; California State Parks added to RSG
- South coast: DFG continues feasibility role; California State Parks added in staff capacity to advise RSG and evaluate proposals
- North coast: Roles continue, with California State Parks voice more active regarding needs



Results: Central Coast



SMCA = state marine conservation area SMP = state marine park
SMR = state marine reserve SMRMA = state marine recreational management area



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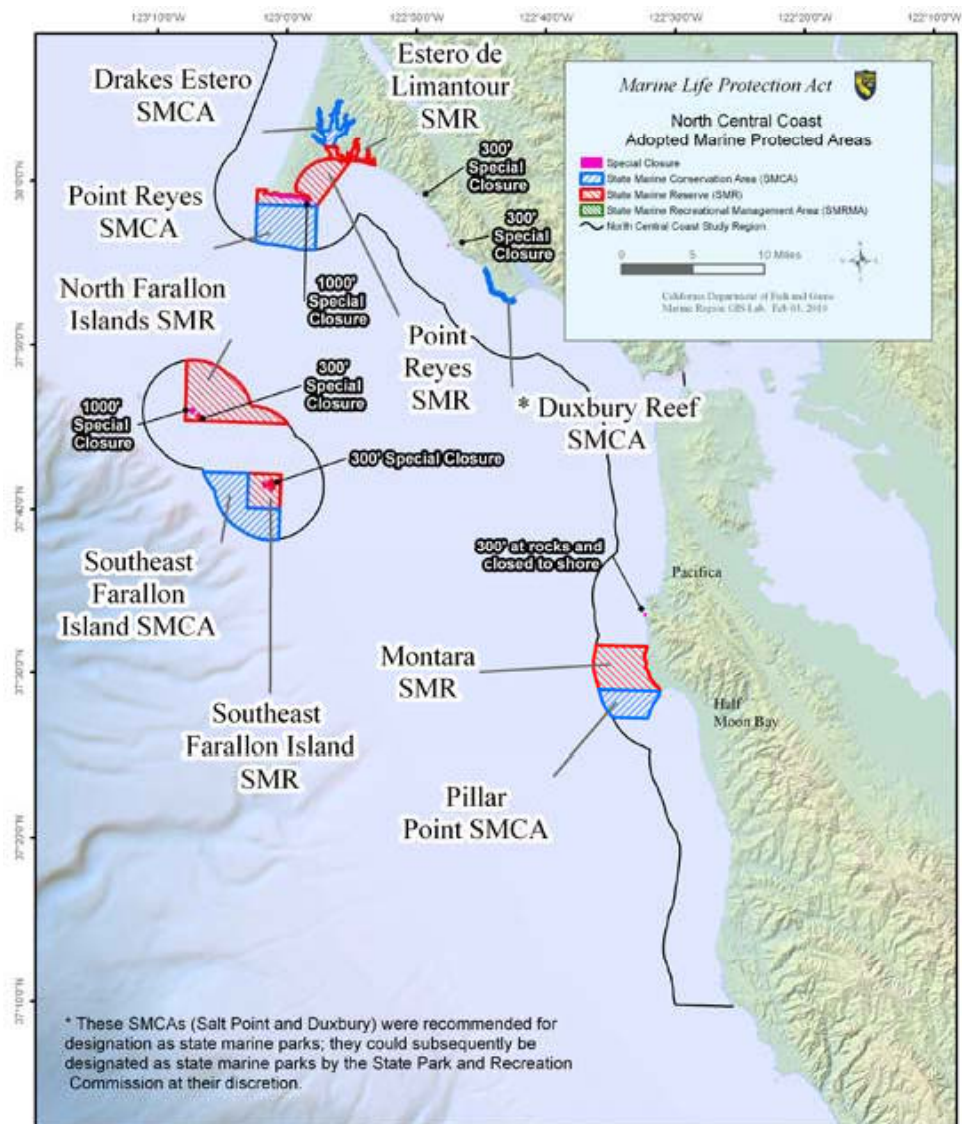


Status: Central Coast

- **Implementation** – September 2007
- **Outreach** – Public information signs for Monterey to Santa Cruz area, online guide to central coast MPAs, investigating smartphone application
- **Management** – Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Sea Doc removing derelict fishing gear from MPAs
- **Monitoring** – Approximately \$4 million to support data collection for baseline characterization in 2007 and 2008 (five studies ranging from socioeconomic to ecological surveys across range of key habitats)



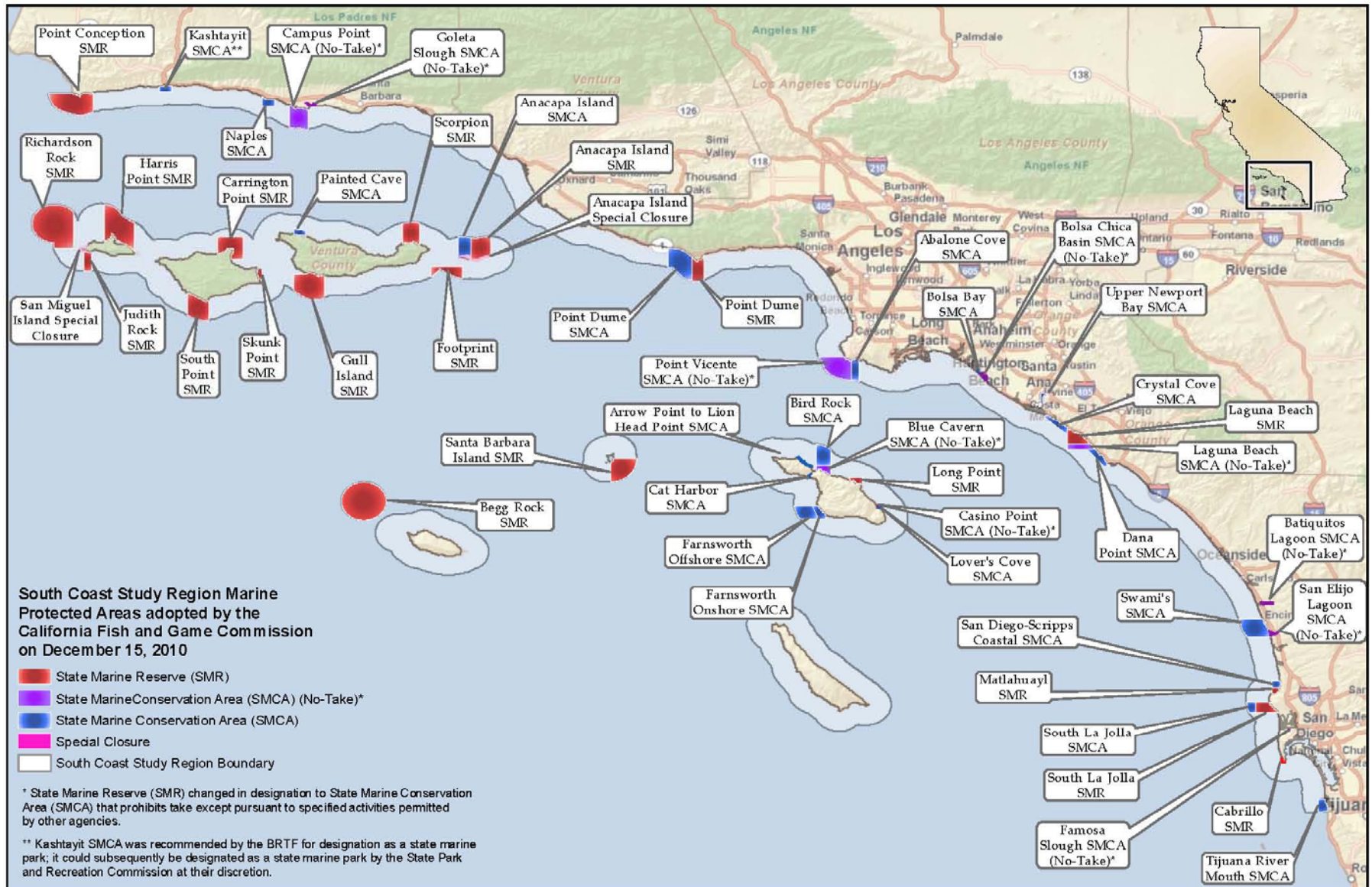
These MPAs take effect April 1, 2010.





Status: North Central Coast

- **Implementation** – April 2010
- **Outreach** – Partnering with State Parks to develop signs; online and print guides to north central coast MPAs; informational flyer developed with stakeholders
- **Management** – Commission adopted emergency regulation changes to Stewarts Point SMR/SMCA and considering changes to SE Farallon Island Special Closure
- **Monitoring** – Plan approved by commission in April 2010. Approximately \$4 million to support data collection for baseline characterization 2010- 2012 (eleven studies ranging from socioeconomic to ecological surveys across range of key habitats)





Status: South Coast

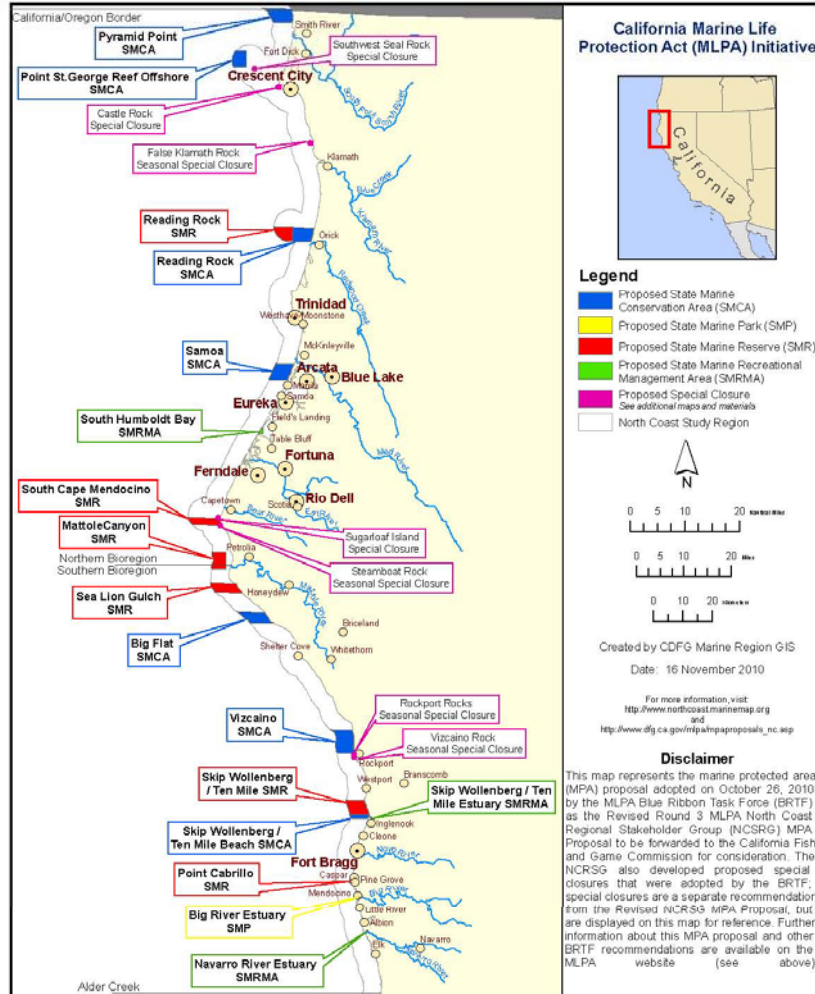
- **Implementation** – 2011, dependent upon Office of Administrative Law approval
- **Management** – Military closures in effect; Sea Doc Society removing derelict fishing gear and debris from MPAs and surrounding areas
- **Monitoring** – Workshops held in July and November to help develop plan; anticipate release in early 2011. Ongoing conversations with agency and academic scientists to identify and discuss metrics. Considering existing programs and Channel Islands monitoring. Approximately \$4 million to support data collection for baseline characterization, scheduled to begin July 2011.

Recommendation: NC MPA Proposals

MLPA North Coast Study Region

Revised Round 3 North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group MPA Proposal

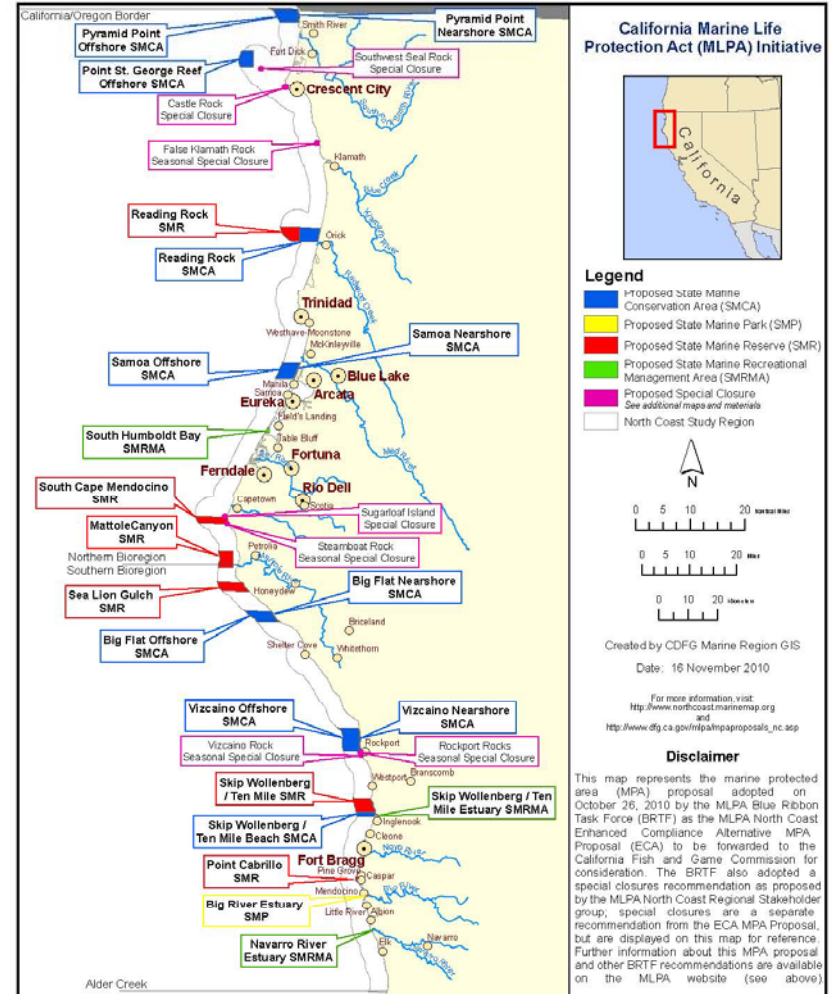
Overview Map



MLPA North Coast Study Region

North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal

Overview Map



* Proposals include SMRMAs, a type of marine managed area



Status: North Coast

- Recommendations for MPAs and special closures delivered to California Fish and Game Commission on February 2, 2011
- Secretary Laird assigned his staff to investigate whether administrative solution exists to allow continued traditional tribal gathering within MPAs
- Commission assigned its staff to develop revised MPA proposal that accommodates traditional tribal gathering, using stakeholder proposal as foundation
- Ultimately commission will start California Environmental Quality Act and regulatory rule-making processes (both public processes)



Status: San Francisco Bay

- MOU: “...parties will meet to review progress in performing this MOU and will reach agreement on...[process for and] schedule for delivery of a recommendation....”
- “Options” report to be delivered spring 2011 that identifies different planning strategies, ranging from no planning to MLPA Initiative-type model
- Currently no funding





Why the MLPA Initiative model?

- Different from traditional decision-making
- Robust, transparent, adaptive process with multiple opportunities for participation
- Deliberative iterations; choices framed, interests expressed, stakeholders develop ideas, public is able to directly contribute, ideas refined
- Use of best, readily-available science to inform deliberations
- Significant data and information about proposals through various evaluations, analyses, and stakeholder-developed materials
- Strong foundation for recommendations





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